Applicants

Niall R. Lynam et al.

Page

4

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please replace the paragraph starting on line 2 with the following new paragraph:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Pat. application Ser. No. 09/745,172, filed Dec. 20, 2000, entitled EXTERIOR MIRROR PLANO-AUXILIARY REFLECTIVE ELEMENT ASSEMBLY, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,717,712, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Pat. application Ser. No. 09/478,315, filed Jan. 6, 2000, entitled "EXTERIOR MIRROR PLANO-AUXILIARY REFLECTIVE ELEMENT ASSEMBLY", now U.S. Patent No. 6,522,451, which [[is]] are incorporated by reference herein in its entirety their entireties.

On page 16, please replace the paragraph starting on line 1 with the following new paragraph:

Also, plano element 50 and/or multiradius element 55 can comprise a variable reflectance electro-optic element such as an electrochromic mirror reflector. Thus, both element 50 and element 55 can comprise an electrochromic mirror element or either of element 50 and element 55 can comprise an electrochromic mirror element and the other can comprise a fixed reflectance non-variable reflectance mirror element such as a metal reflector coated glass panel such as a chromium coated glass substrate. Also, if both plano element 50 and multiradius element 55 comprise an electro-optic element such as an electrochromic mirror element capable of electrically dimmable reflectivity, both elements 50, 55 can dim together and in tandem under control of a common dimming control signal (typically provided by an electro-optic automatic dimming interior mirror assembly mounted in the cabin of the automobile and equipped with photosensors to detect incident glare and ambient light). Alternately, if both plano element 50 and multiradius element 55 comprise an electrooptic element such as an electrochromic mirror element capable of electrically dimmable reflectivity, element 50 can dim independently of element 55 (such as is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,550,677, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein). If either or both of elements 50, 55 comprise an electrochromic element, preferably, the electrochromic reflective element comprises a front substrate and a rear substrate with an

Applicants: Niall R. Lynam et al.

Page: 5

electrochromic medium disposed between, such as a solid polymer matrix electrochromic medium such as is disclosed in U.S. Pat. application Ser. No. 09/350,930, filed July 12, 1999, entitled "ELECTROCHROMIC POLYMERIC SOLID FILMS, MANUFACTURING ELECTROCHROMIC DEVICES USING SUCH FILMS, AND PROCESSES FOR MAKING SUCH SOLID FILMS AND DEVICES" to Desaraju V. Varaprasad et al., now U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,306, or such as is disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,668,663; 5,724,187; 5,910,854; and 5,239,405, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein. Most preferably, in such laminate-type electrochromic mirror reflective elements, the front substrate comprises a glass plate of thickness less than about 1.6 mm. most preferably about 1.1 mm thickness or lower, and the rear substrate comprises a glass plate of thickness equal to or greater than about 1.6mm, more preferably greater than about 1.8 mm thickness, most preferably equal to or greater than about 2.0 mm thickness. The rearmost surface of the rear substrate (the fourth surface as known in the mirror art) is reflector coated with a high reflecting metal film such as of aluminum or silver, or an alloy of aluminum or silver. Most preferably, the front-most surface of the rear substrate (the third surface as known in the mirror art) is reflector coated with a high reflecting metal film such as of aluminum or silver, or an alloy of aluminum or silver.

On page 24, please replace the paragraph starting on line 13 with the following new paragraph:

Frame element assembly 316 mounts reflective element assembly 310 in the mirror casing and preferably on an actuator, such as an electric actuator, which permits adjustment to the orientation of reflective element assembly 310 about one or more axis. Examples of suitable actuators are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,900,999; 5,986,364; 6,132,052; 6,037,689; and 6,094,027 and copending applications Ser. No. 09/277,632, filed Mar. 26, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,229,226, and Ser. No. 09/408,867, filed Sept. 29, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,243,218, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. Optionally and preferably, backing plate 324 is adapted to engage or be engaged by the actuator for repositioning of plano-auxiliary reflective element assembly 310 about one or more axes. In this manner, the orientation of both reflective element 312 and reflective

Applicants: Niall R. Lynam et al.

Page:

element 314 are simultaneously adjusted by the actuator. As best seen in FIG. 9, forward facing side 324a of backing plate 324 includes mounting structures 324b which are engaged by the actuator to thereby mount reflective element assembly 310 in the mirror casing.

On page 28, please replace the paragraph starting on line 9 with the following new paragraph:

From the foregoing, it can be appreciated that reflective elements 312 and 314 provide a wider field of view than a wholly planar rearview mirror element that fully accommodates an equivalent frame having similar dimensions. In addition, because reflective elements 312 and 314 have overlapping field of views, an image in the field of view of reflective element 314 will transition or move between the reflective elements and appear in both reflective elements during the transition to thereby enable the driver of the automobile to view or be conscious of the object continuously. In the illustrated embodiment, reflective element 314 is positioned in an outboard position relative to reflective element 312; therefore, when a vehicle or object that is approaching the automobile from the rear and to some extent from the side, the image of the approaching object will first appear in reflective element 312, then appear in both reflective elements 314 and 312, and then move to reflective element 314 so that the driver will be initially aware of the approaching object when its image first appears in reflective element 312 and continue to be aware of the object as it moves closer to the automobile, thus increasing the range of viewing of the driver. Since the image transitions smoothly from reflective element 312 to reflective element 314, the driver's awareness of the object is continuous and, further, the driver is not distracted from sudden transitions that often occur with conventional spotter mirrors. Typically, when an object "falls" or "drops" out, a driver's consciousness of the object reduces significantly, if not ceases, which is one of the causes of many automobile blind spot accidents. Hence, when combined with the field of view of an interior rearview mirror system, the present invention reduces, if not eliminates, an automobile's blind spot. For further discussion of blind spots in vehicle rearview mirror systems, reference is made to copending U.S. provisional application entitled VEHICULAR REARVIEW MIRROR SYSTEM, Ser. No. 60/252,149, filed November 20, 2000 by Robert E. Schnell, David K. Willmore, and Richard J. Weber (Attorney Docket DON01 P-840),

Applicants: Niall R. Lynam et al.

Page:

which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. Thus, the plano-auxiliary reflective element assembly provides a seamless rearvision function whereby the image of a side approaching/side overtaking other vehicle is substantially seamlessly maintained as the image of the overtaking or approaching vehicle transitions from being principally and substantially viewed by the driver of the vehicle (the vehicle mounted with the mirror system of the present invention) in the plano reflective element to be seen in the auxiliary reflective element.